



GP 1731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

MARC J. SABOURIN

Examiner: M. Alvo

Serial No. 08/907,687

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filing Date: August 8, 1997

For: Method Of Pretreating Lignocellulose Fiber-Containing
Material For The Pulp Making ProcessCommissioner For Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

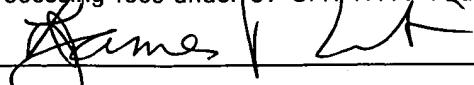
Transmitted herewith is a **Response To Official Action** in the above-identified application.

() A small entity statement was previously submitted in this application.
() A small entity statement is enclosed.
(X) A filing fee for extra claims does not appear required.
() A filing fee for extra claims is calculated below:

No. of Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	No. of Extra Claims	Fee For Small Entity Rate	Fee For Other Than Small Entity Rate	Fee
Total			x \$ 9 = \$	x \$18 = \$	
Indep.			x \$39 = \$	x \$78 = \$	
() First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims			+ \$130 = \$	+ \$260 = \$	
			TOTAL = \$	TOTAL = \$	

(X) It is hereby petitioned that any required extension of time be granted for filing the amendment. An extension of -0- month(s) having a fee of \$ -0- appears required.
() A check in the amount of \$ _____ is attached. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 16-2563 of Alix, Yale & Ristas, LLP.

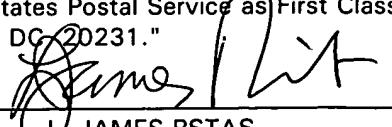
The Commissioner is hereby requested and authorized to charge Deposit Account 16-2563 of Alix, Yale & Ristas, LLP for any fee, not enclosed herewith, due for any reason in connection with the amendment or this or any other document accompanying the amendment, including (a) any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims and (b) any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence and the attachments herein is being deposited on the date below with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner For Patents, Washington, DC 20231."

Signature: 

L. JAMES RSTAS

Reg. No. 28,663

Date July 25, 2000

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

In response to the official action dated April 25, 2000, Applicant requests that the Examiner enter and consider the following amendment and remarks.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Cancel claim 30 and amend claims 29, 31, 32, and 36 as follows:

29. (twice amended) A method for producing thermo-mechanical pulp from lignocellulose fiber-containing feed material comprising the steps of:

first conditioning said fiber containing feed material in an environment of saturated steam at a pressure in the range of about 15-25 psi to produce a conditioned feed material;

subsequently compressing said conditioned feed material in a screw press in an environment of saturated steam at a pressure in the range of about 15-25 psi at a compression ratio of at least about 4:1 to destructure said fibers; [and]

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